

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

SCI-06 IO-14 DRC-01 /187 W
----- 009754

R 180422Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9845

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 0966

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: EFFECT OF ENERGY SITUATION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE

REF : STATE 5278

1. THAI FERTILIZER SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE SINCE 1971-72.
THE LOCAL FERTILIZER FACTORY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO PRODUCE AT MORE
THAN 60 PER CENT OF THE RATED CAPACITY. FERTILIZER OUTPUT HAS
DECLINED EACH YEAR AS INDICATED BELOW:

1971-72 1972-73 1973-74 1974-75

ESTIMATED

-----METRIC TONS-----

AMMONIUM SULPHATE (20.5PC N) 27,756 25,601 22,000 20,000

UREA (45PC N) 10,219 5,500 3,000 3,000

THE RATED PRODUCTION CAPACITY FOR AMMONIUM SULPHATE IS 30,000 METRIC
TONS PER YEAR, WHILE THE RATED CAPACITY FOR UREA IS 15,000 METRIC TON
S.

TABLE I. SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZER, 1971-72 THROUGH
1974-75, IN METRIC TONS OF NUTRIENTS.

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1971-72 1972-73 1973-74 1974-75

ESTIMATED

-----METRIC TONS-----

NITROGEN (N)

PRODUCTION	10,289	7,723	6,000	5,500
IMPORTS	18,051	21,708	30,000	35,000
EXPORTS	--	--	--	--
CONSUMPTION	28,000	29,000	34,000	40,000
STOCKS	340	431	2,000	500

PHOSPHATE (P2O5)

PRODUCTION	--	--	--	--
IMPORTS	1,051	1,223	1,500	2,000
EXPORTS	--	--	--	-
CONSUMPTION	1,000	1,200	1,500	2,000
STOCKS	51	23	--	--

POTASH (K2O)

PRODUCTION	--	--	--	--
IMPORTS	645	1,366	2,000	3,000
EXPORTS	--	--	--	--
CONSUMPTION	600	1,300	2,000	3,000
STOCKS	45	66	--	--

2. PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FOR FERTILIZER ARE HIGH AND HAVE BEEN ALMOST DOUBLE THE BANGKOK CIF PRICES DUE TO THE MONOPOLY POSITION OF THE FERTILIZER COMPANY. FERTILIZER PRICES TO FARMERS ARE SHOWN IN TABLE II.

TABLE II. AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FOR FERTILIZER, 1971 THROUGH 1973 AND ESTIMATED 1974.

	1971	1972	1973	1974
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-----BAHT PER KILOGRAM-----

AMMONIUM SULPHATE	1.85	1.85	2.55	3.50
UREA	3.04	3.04	3.77	5.00
COMPOUND FERTILIZER (16-20-0)	2.25	2.42	3.37	4.50

3. THE RTG HAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN ON THE AVAILABILITY OF 250,000 METRIC TONS, PRODUCT WEIGHT, OF FERTILIZER. NO INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED ON THE NUTRIENT BREAKDOWN OF THIS REQUEST. THE THAI COOPERATIVE LEAGUE HAS REQUESTED QUOTATIONS FROM THE U.S. ON 50,000 METRIC TONS OF 16-20-0 FERTILIZER.

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4. HISTORICALLY THAILAND USES YEARLY ONLY A SMALL QUANTITY OF FERTILIZER. AVAILABILITY OF MORE FERTILIZER IN 1974 SHOULD RESULT IN LARGER RICE AND CORN CROPS. SHOULD THE RTG FIND THAT FERTILIZER IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE MAJOR AFFECT WILL BE LITTLE OR NO INCREASE IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION IN 1974. MOST FARMERS USE LITTLE OR NO FERTILIZER, THEREFORE, WITH NORMAL WEATHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SHOULD BE AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN 1973.

5. THE ESTIMATED THAI GNP IN MILLION U.S. DOLLARS AT CURRENT PRICES

IS 1972, \$ 7,413

1973, \$ 9,369

1974, \$10,398

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PETROLEUM, TRADE, ECONOMIC REPORTS, FERTILIZERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO00966
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740133/aaaabesm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 5278
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFECT OF ENERGY SITUATION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND TRADE
TAGS: EAGR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005